

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a building structure free of fungi, the building having an enclosed space within the structure having a floor surface, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a flow of collecting air from a plurality of spaced locations within the an enclosed space within the structure to a location outside of the structure, the locations being proximate the floor surface and distributed over the area of the floor surface so as to effectively collect air from the entire enclosed space proximate the floor surface; and

delivering the collected air to a central chamber positioned within the enclosed space;

positioning a blower within the chamber having an inlet for receiving the collected air and an outlet for discharging the air delivered to the inlet;

treating subjecting the flow of air flowing from the enclosed space to the blower to in a germicidal fashion treatment; and

discharging the collected and germicidally treated air from the blower outlet.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the germicidal treating step comprises:

creating a fungi killing zone ~~in the lower enclosed space;~~ and
passing the flow of air through the killing zone.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the killing zone comprises a zone in which the flow of air is subjected to radiant energy.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the radiant energy comprises ultraviolet radiation.

5. (Currently Amended) For use with a building structure situated on a ground surface and having an upper enclosed space and a lower enclosed space beneath the upper enclosed space and proximate or beneath the ground surface, a method of maintaining the building free of fungi comprising the steps of:

~~creating a flow of~~ collecting air from a plurality of spaced locations within the lower enclosed space to a location outside of the building proximate a floor surface of the lower enclosed space, the locations being distributed over the area of the floor surface so as to effectively collect air from the entire lower enclosed space proximate the floor surface; and

delivering the collected air to a central chamber positioned within the lower enclosed space;

positioning a blower in the chamber having an inlet for receiving the collected air and an outlet;

~~treating~~ subjecting the flow of air flowing from the lower enclosed space to the blower inlet to in a germicidal fashion treatment; and

discharging the collected and germicidally treated air from the blower outlet.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein the germicidally treating step comprises:

creating a fungi killing zone ~~in the lower enclosed space;~~ and
passing the flow of air through the killing zone.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the killing zone comprises a zone in which the flow of air is subjected to radiant energy.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the radiant energy comprises ultraviolet radiation.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 wherein:
the lower enclosed space comprises a finished basement area of the building including paneling spaced from a foundation wall of the basement to define a dead air space between the foundation wall and the paneling; and
the fungi killing zone is created in the dead air space; and
~~the flow of air is created from the dead air space to the outside of the building.~~

10. (Currently Amended) For use with a structure having a first enclosed space intended for human occupancy and a second enclosed space proximate the first space, a method of maintaining the structure free of fungi comprising the steps of:

creating a flow of collecting air from the a plurality of spaced locations within the second enclosed space to a location outside of the structure proximate a floor surface of the second enclosed space, the locations being distributed over the area of the floor surface so as to collect air from substantially the entire second enclosed space proximate the floor surface;

providing a blower within the second enclosed space having an inlet and an outlet;

delivering the collected air to the blower inlet;

creating a zone of radiant energy in the second enclosed space; and

passing the ~~flow of air~~ flowing from the second enclosed space to the blower inlet through the radiant energy zone.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the radiant energy is in the form of wave energy.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11 wherein the radiant energy is in the form of ultraviolet waves.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the method includes the further steps of providing a means for detecting the presence of a human in the second enclosed space and extinguishing the radiant energy in response to a sensed human presence.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein the method includes the further step of providing the first enclosed space with relatively conditioned air.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for abating fungi in a structure having boundary walls defining a first enclosed space intended for human occupancy and a second enclosed space proximate the first enclosed space and having a floor surface, the apparatus comprising:

a blower unit having an air inlet and an air exhaust and adapted to be positioned in the structure with the air inlet communicating with the second enclosed space ~~and the air exhaust communicating with the exterior of the structure~~, actuation of the blower unit being operative to draw air from the second enclosed space into the

inlet of the blower unit and thereafter discharge the air through the air exhaust ~~to the exterior of the structure; and~~

a plurality of conduits each having an outlet and communicating with the blower air inlet and an inlet end, the inlet ends of the conduits being positioned at spaced locations proximate the floor surface of the second enclosed space, the inlet ends being distributed over the floor surface so as to effectively collect air from the entire second enclosed space proximate the floor surface in response to actuation of the blower unit; and

~~a source of radiant energy adapted to be positioned in the second enclosed space~~ in a position to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept collected air moving through the conduits from the second enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit.

16. (Original) A structure according to claim 15 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises an ultraviolet lamp.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the apparatus further includes an exhaust conduit having an inlet end connected to the exhaust of the blower unit ~~and an outlet end adapted to be positioned at a location outside of the structure.~~

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for abating fungi in a building supported on a ground surface and having an upper enclosed space and a lower enclosed space beneath the upper enclosed space and proximate or beneath the ground surface, the lower enclosed space having a floor surface, the apparatus comprising;

a blower unit having an air inlet and an air exhaust;

at least one exhaust conduit having an inlet end connected to the exhaust of the blower unit ~~and an outlet end adapted to be positioned at a location outside of the building structure, actuation of the blower unit being operative to draw air from the lower enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit and thereafter through the exhaust conduit to the exterior of the building structure, and~~

a plurality of intake conduits each having an outlet end communicating with the air inlet of the blower unit and an inlet end, the inlet ends of the conduits being positioned at spaced locations proximate the floor surface of the lower enclosed space, the inlet ends being distributed over the floor surface to as to effectively collect air from the entire lower enclosed space proximate the floor surface in response to actuation of the blower unit; and

a source of radiant energy adapted to be positioned ~~in the lower enclosed space in a position to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept~~ collected air moving through the conduits from the lower enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein ~~the apparatus further includes an~~ each intake conduit ~~having~~ has a horizontal run connected to the blower unit air inlet and a vertical run extending downwardly from the horizontal run to position the inlet end of the intake conduit proximate the floor surface of the lower enclosed space.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~21~~20 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises a plurality of radiant energy sources adapted to be positioned in spaced relation in the lower enclosed space and operative to intercept the air moving into the intake ends of each of the intake conduits.

23. (Original) An apparatus according to the claim 22 wherein each source of radiant energy comprises a source of ultraviolet radiation.

24. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein each source of ultraviolet radiation comprises an ultraviolet lamp.

25. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 24 wherein the apparatus further includes means for sensing the humidity in the lower enclosed space and operative to actuate the blower unit and the ultraviolet lamps in response to variations in the sensed humidity.

26. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the apparatus further includes means for detecting the presence of a human in the lower enclosed space and operative in response to such detection to turn off the lamps.

27. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the means for detecting the presence of a human comprises a motion detector.

28. (Currently Amended) A structure comprising:
boundary walls defining a first enclosed air space intended for human occupancy and a second enclosed air space proximate the first air space and having a floor surface;

a blower unit positioned in the structure and having an air inlet communicating with the second enclosed space and an air exhaust ~~communicating with the exterior of the structure, actuation of the blower being operative to draw air from the second enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit and thereafter discharge the air through the air exhaust to the exterior of the building structure; and~~

a plurality of intake conduits each having an outlet end communicating with the inlet end of the blower unit and an inlet end, the inlets ends of the conduits being positioned at spaced locations proximate the floor surface of the second enclosed space, the inlet ends being distributed over the floor surface so as to effectively collect air from the entire second enclosed space proximate the floor surface in response to actuation of the blower unit; and

a source of radiant energy positioned ~~in the second enclosed space in a position~~ to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept collected air moving through the intake conduits from the second enclosed air space into the inlet end of the blower unit.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A structure according to claim 28 wherein the source of radiant energy comprises ~~an~~ ultraviolet lamp means.

31. (Original) A structure according to claim 28 wherein the structure further includes means for providing conditioned air to the first enclosed space.

32. (Currently Amended) A building structure including:

boundary walls defining an upper enclosed space including a floor and a lower enclosed space defined beneath the floor and including a lower boundary surface;

a blower unit positioned beneath the floor and having an air inlet and an air exhaust;

at least one exhaust conduit having an inlet end connected to the air exhaust of the blower unit; ~~and an outlet end communicating with the exterior of the building, actuation of the blower unit being operative to draw air from the lower enclosed space into the air inlet of the blower unit and thereafter through the exhaust conduit to the exterior of the building structure; and~~

a plurality of intake conduits each having an outlet end communicating with the lower air inlet and an inlet end, the inlet ends of the conduits being positioned at spaced locations proximate the lower boundary surface of the lower enclosed space, the inlet ends being distributed over the lower boundary surface so as to effectively collect air from the entire lower enclosed space proximate the lower boundary surface in response to actuation of the blower unit; and

a source of radiant energy positioned in the lower enclosed space in a position to establish a fungi killing zone to intercept air moving through the intake conduit from the lower enclosed space into the inlet of the blower unit.

33. (Currently Amended) A building structure according to claim 32 wherein:

the lower enclosed space comprises a finished basement of the building structure including paneling spaced from a foundation wall of the basement to define a dead air space between the foundation wall and the paneling;

the fungi killing zone is established in the dead air space; and

the intercepted air comprises air moving through the inlet conduit from the dead air space into the air inlet of the blower unit.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) A building according to claim 33 wherein the blower unit is positioned proximate the floor of the upper enclosed space.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A building according to claim 3635 wherein there are a plurality of sources of radiant energy positioned proximate the floor in spaced relation within the lower enclosed space and operative, cumulatively, to intercept substantially all of the air moving from the lower enclosed space into the inlet ends of the intake conduits.

38. (Original) A building according to claim 37 wherein each source of radiant energy comprises a source of ultraviolet energy.

39. (Original) A building according to claim 38 wherein each source of ultraviolet energy comprises an ultraviolet lamp.